

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 14560 171847Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1027

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 14560

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, US, FR

SUBJECT: LEGION OF MERIT AWARD TO JOIRE-NOULENS

REF: STATE 117448

1. QUAI INFORMED US MAY 17 THAT GOF HAS NO OBJECTION TO AWARD OF LEGION OF MERIT TO FRENCH CNO ADMIRAL JOIRE-NOULENS. QUAI TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND US THAT SUCH GOF CLEARANCES NORMALLY REQUIRE MUCH LONGER TIME TO STAFF PROPERLY WITHIN FRENCH GOVERNMENT. WHILE QUAI IS PREPARED TO SHORT CIRCUIT FORMAL BUREAUCRATIC PROCEDURE OCCASIONALLY WHEN NECESSARY, URGENT EXCEPTIONS TO NORMAL PROCEDURE (SUCH AS CASE WITH REQUEST FOR LEGION OF MERIT AWARD FOR GENERAL MERY AND ADMIRAL JOIRE-NOULENS) SHOULD NOT BECOME HABIT.

2. COMMENT: IN OUR EXPERIENCE, QUAI NEEDS UPWARDS OF SIXTY DAYS TO PROCESS ROUTINE CLEARANCE FOR U.S. AWARDS TO FRENCH MILITARY OFFICERS. REQUEST THAT DEPARTMENT UNDERLINE WITH DOD NEED FOR MORE LEAD TIME IN FUTURE WHEN ASKING EMBASSY TO INITIATE SUCH REQUESTS WITH GOF IF WE ARE TO CONTINUE TO ENJOY FULL FRENCH COOPERATION ON FUTURE LEGITIMATE SHORT-FUSE URGENT CASES.
GAMMON

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